

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

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Reply To: (213) 738-4601
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May 28, 2010

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.
Director of Mental Health

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to be "MS", is written over the "FROM:" line.

SUBJECT: **NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO ENTER INTO SOLE SOURCE
CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROGRAMS, INC. (SCADP)**

This memo is to comply with Board of Supervisors' Policy Manual, Section 5.100, Sole Source Contract, by notifying the Board of our need to initiate a Sole Source Contract. It is the Department of Mental Health's (DMH) intent to enter into contract negotiations with SCADP to provide residential mental health supportive services for five (5) deaf and hard of hearing persons who are ready for discharge from Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMDs).

Significant barriers separate deaf and hard of hearing persons from mental health treatment, and chief among these is lack of service access. While the use of American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters is preferable to no communications, due to the personal nature of mental health treatment it is not the best method of service delivery for persons who are deaf and hard of hearing. To provide true American with Disabilities Act (ADA) services, clinicians must be fluent in ASL and fully understand deaf culture. Services for mentally ill individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing are highly specialized and are provided by very few residential mental health agencies in Southern California.

There are a number of Los Angeles County residents who are deaf/hard of hearing in IMDs who are there only because there is no community-based residential program in Los Angeles County with staff who can communicate in ASL. It would be inappropriate to place these individuals in facilities where they could not communicate with staff or receive treatment for their mental illness.

In order to enable the placement of these persons into the community, DMH proposes to enter into contract negotiations with SCADP to provide residential mental health treatment services for five (5) deaf and hard of hearing persons from IMDs. Services will include assessment, individual and group therapy, peer education and support groups, case management and medication support.

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SCDAP is uniquely qualified to provide these services because it has provided similar services in Los Angeles County for 22 years and is the only residential treatment program for hearing impaired persons in California. It established the Awakenings residential treatment program in 1988 to serve deaf and hard of hearing individuals. The facility provides addiction treatment, mental health treatment, transitional and permanent housing, with all services provided in ASL.

The Awakenings residential site will be located at 12322 Clearglen Avenue, Whittier, CA 90604. The Medi-Cal certified outpatient clinic will be located at 11500 Paramount Blvd., Downey, CA 90241. Both sites are located in Service Area 7, Supervisorial District 4.

The program will be funded with \$100,000 County General Funds included in the DMH's Fiscal Year 2010-11 IMD budget and \$122,000 in Federal Financial Participation.

Unless otherwise instructed by a Board office within two weeks, DMH will proceed with negotiating the sole source contract. DMH will work closely with County Counsel and the Chief Executive Office in preparing a new agreement with SCADP.

MJS:TB:MM:mm

c: Health Deputies
Chief Executive Office
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Robin Kay, Ph.D.
Mary Marx
Contracts Development and Administration

T:AdmHealmp